

I have said over and over again that my biggest concern in this whole budget debate is what is going to happen with Medicare and Medicaid. There were two things that happened today on those two fronts, so to speak, that were particularly disturbing.

It was indicated in several newspaper reports today that we should expect large increases in MediGap premiums, as much as 30 percent on the average, over the next year. The reason for that is because of what is happening here with Medicare.

Right now many senior citizens who do not feel that Medicare covers them sufficiently, because they have to make copayments or pay a lot of money out of pocket for things that are not covered by Medicare, purchase supplemental insurance called MediGap insurance. MediGap premiums are going up as much as 30 percent. Why? Because increasingly the Medicare program does not cover what is necessary for health care for seniors.

So if we cut back, as the Republican majority is proposing, on the amount of money that is available for Medicare for seniors, it is inevitable that that supplemental MediGap insurance will go up and continue to rise.

The other thing that happened today, and this is the last thing I wanted to say in the time that was allotted to me, is that we had an event with a number of people who are taking care of elderly parents who are covered by Medicaid. They are terribly concerned, and I listened to their stories today, over the Republican budget and what it is going to mean for Medicaid.

Under the Republican budget, Medicaid is no longer guaranteed for anybody, and many people who are children or care givers, whatever, are concerned that without the guaranteed eligibility for Medicaid there will not be nursing homes available for their loved ones or there will not be payments under Medicaid for their loved ones.

Again, the process continues, the Government shutdown, the Republicans do not do anything to move toward these budget priorities on Medicare and Medicaid, and it is truly tragic that we are not going to be here next week to try to address these concerns.

REPUBLICANS TO HANG FIRM TO BALANCE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIAHRT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BUYER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a strong heart I come here. I am really surprised that Members would even take the well and somehow try to claim ownership to issues of children and demagoguery. It is completely unfortunate, and to say that somehow because I am a Republican in this body that I do not care about children is incredibly insulting.

Let me also say that even to say words about assault upon children

shows poor judgment. We get that kind of language here on the floor. I do enjoy and I am one who advocates the opening up, and I love the dialog that happens in this body, but perhaps because we are moving into the Christmas season and many of us are upset that we still have to be in this town, we get some of those words come about.

I have no regrets being here in this town at this moment. I have no regrets, because the Reserve unit which I went to the gulf war with has been called up and is on their way to Bosnia. So when I think of them, I remember what that deployment was like, and I think of them now being in the snow of the mountains of Bosnia away from their families.

But I also view that, yes, what they face, the cowardly acts of terror and the threats to the force, we also have the same cowardly acts of terror that face those of us who seek to balance the budget. The acts of terror come in the form of words. You see, I am one who believes that words have meaning. So when you say, "Oh, I want to balance the budget," then you ought to really mean you want to balance the budget. Do not say, "I want to balance the budget, oh, sometime in the future but I am unwilling to make tough choices."

Let me share that when I returned from the gulf, I was one that was extraordinarily upset with regard to the direction of our country. When you are touched by the experience of war, you begin to understand that there are many people throughout our society who have sacrificed, sacrificed for future generations and recognized the obligations that we have to take care of our parents and our grandparents, at the same time our obligation to see that our children have it better than what we had.

My fear when I look at our children is, are they going to have it better than what we have had? When I look at economic stagnation and the effects upon the wages, there are a lot of issues out there. But when I look at the national debt, I look at that and say that is the greatest threat to our security.

Serving on the Committee on National Security, we have briefings all the time about threats abroad to national security. But what about the threat from within? The threat from within when we have Members of Congress who are unwilling to act responsibly, and only want to reach into their wallets and pull out the credit card and keep stealing from future generations so they can continue to come back here. Then they wrap themselves in the cloak as if they are compassionate and they have ownership of sincerity, and that if you want to act responsibly, then you are cold, callous and uncaring.

That is wrong. That is wrong. But that is kind of the words that are used in this body and it is extraordinarily

unfortunate. What it does is, it seeks to divide this body instead of unite the body.

So you have the far left and you have the far right and they seek to pull, and those in the middle when we seek to bridge an agreement, we scratch our heads and say, "What is going on?" When I go back home to Indiana, they scratch their heads and say, "Jeez, put NEWT and BOB DOLE and Bill Clinton in the same room so they can solve it." Come on.

Coming to this body and saying that the national debt is the greatest threat to this country, and then finally to be able to do something about it. You see, for the longest time conservatives, we advocated freezing the budget. Then when we got control of the Congress, we no longer advocated freezing the budget, because now we have an opportunity to change systems. So when over the years we work hard to change systems, streamline and make government more effective, we get attacked.

Well, we are going to hang firm and balance the Nation's budget because this is about the future of the country.

REPUBLICANS VOTE TO GO HOME IN FACE OF SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this has been a strange day, and these are strange times. We have my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the Republicans, who claim they have kept us here because they want to negotiate. They have literally caused people to change their plans, change their lives, caused so much uncertainty with the families they claim to care about.

Do not forget, these are the family values people. These are the folks who say they know more about family values than most of us. But yet when they had an opportunity to be sensible, to be credible, to make sure that we operate in a way that respects our families, they have done some strange things.

After all of this, when they had an opportunity to negotiate, the President called them up, met with them, and their leader, NEWT GINGRICH, went back to them and said, "We have an agreement. We can get a continuing resolution to keep Government open."

Mind you, Government is not really operating. We do not have the authority. We have a lot of Federal employees that have been told to go home. This is Christmastime. They do not know what is happening. They do not know when they are going to be returned. We have parks that are closed down. We have people who cannot get passports.

Then my friends on the other side of the aisle got cute and they decided, "Oh, let's strike a blow for veterans. That's a great constituency. They vote. When we say we're doing something for veterans, we really look good. These are the person who have defended our

country, so if we go on the floor and we make sure we said they should get paid, it's going to make us look good with the American public."

And so we did that. In all of this, we failed to negotiate, we don't have a continuing resolution for everybody, but we struck this little blow for veterans.

And after NEWT GINGRICH went to them and said they could have a deal with the President to have a continuing resolution, they said, "No, we don't want to do it. We don't care what you say, NEWT GINGRICH." The new Members, the freshmen, said, "No, we don't want a deal."

After not having a deal, they said the reason they did not want to do it is because the President had not committed to a 7-year balanced budget, nor did he want to accept the Congressional Budget Office projections and their understanding of how the economy would be working over the next 7 years. That is what they said.

Well, that has been cleared up, so you would think they would have negotiated today. But no, they have not done that. They took a vote, led by the Republicans on the other side of the aisle, to just go home. Just go home. Go home to their families, to our families.

And, yes, most of us would like to do that. But what about the Federal employees and the others that do not know what is going to happen to them? We could have passed a continuing resolution. They did something strange called a recess, an adjournment that is called a recess, and they kind of said, "and we have the opportunity to call you back at some given point in time."

And so this adjournment fashioned as a recess has taken place. But before they left, a lot of damage was done. A lot of damage was done because we passed out a conference report on welfare.

This conference report on welfare basically cuts about \$60 billion out of welfare and, oh, that is easy to do, because welfare has become kind of the political football of politics. If you get up and rant and rave against worthless people who are getting the taxpayers' dollars, oh, you can get some votes. You can get some votes, and you can have people believe that somehow you are protecting the taxpayers.

It is easy to beat up on children. It is easy to beat up on poor people.

"They don't have any power. They can't do anything. And I can get get some votes."

Well, they struck a blow against the children, \$60 billion in cuts. Oh, they took the safety net from under the children. You should see the havoc that was wreaked upon these children and their families, because protective services will be hurt.

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A lot of things will be done to children that I do not think any of us can be proud of. So I stand here this

evening to say, it is shameful what has taken place over the last few days. None of us should be proud of it. None of us should want to go home and face our constituents or our families because it is not honorable what we have done here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS FOR THE CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, as I listened to the debate today and this week, and I think many of the Members in the House and across the country have listened to it, there is a lot of blame going on. Some people are blaming Mr. DOLE; others are blaming Speaker GINGRICH. Some are blaming the freshman class. Others are blaming the President. Others are blaming—and I understand the President actually got mad at the moderates tonight—and then there is a Democrat coalition that is getting some of the blame. And so there seems to be plenty of blame and plenty of theories as to who is the problem here. But whatever the excuse is, whatever group you blame it on, the fact is we still have not resolved this budget impasse.

There is an old World War II saying of the veterans that said that the difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little bit longer. And it would appear that it is impossible right now in 1995 America for us to settle this budget quickly or easily. But I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that we will be able to resolve it. I say that because of a great confidence and belief in the American people, in the American system. Sure, we are having a very difficult debate. It is extremely hard. Democrats are coming, every day they are saying the Republicans hate children, the Republicans hate the elderly, it is the book deal, it is one thing or the other.

I know on their side that the Republicans are accusing Democrats of wanting to spend all the money in the world and yet, when you look at it, Democrats have something to say in this argument. When you look at it, the Republicans have something to say.

I think what the American people really want is a balanced budget and we are the folks who have been elected to do the job. I believe that we can get together and resolve this. Dwight D. Eisenhower said, I am paraphrasing, that once the American people have made up their mind to do something, there is little that can be done to stop

it from happening. I think the American people have made up their mind about the balanced budget and I believe in that context this debate is, I say, fortunately beyond Washington. We will get a balanced budget.

What is it that we are fighting about? The Republican plan, for all the cries about the deep cuts, the Republican plan does not even freeze spending. It increases it \$3 trillion over the next 7 years. The President wants to increase it \$4 trillion over the next 7 years.

As I talk one to one to my Democrat friends and Republican friends, we are all confident that we could resolve it. People from urban areas, people from rural areas, people from the West Coast, East Coast, it does not matter, we believe on an individual basis we can resolve it.

I am seeing a little bit more movement this last week in that direction, informal talks, nothing big, nothing that has picked up in the media, nothing that some of the leadership has even recognized. Yet there is a lot more talking going on than the media would have the American people believe.

So I say with a great optimism, yes, it is too bad we are going to be going home and folks are still out of work and so forth. I think it is important for us to all realize, these are real people, real paychecks, real jobs. They want to be working. They want to know that the security of that paycheck coming in twice a month is going to be there. At the same time, though, I am confident that we are going to get this thing resolved because, and to quote another great leader, Ronald Reagan, we are Americans. We will do the right thing. We will get this thing done, Democrats and Republicans alike.

People are using the children as their shield a lot around here. We are doing this for the kids. What if kids could vote? What if the American children, what if that average 10-year old out there could suddenly vote and, realizing the issues as the rest of us do, and that 10-year old, like my son John, would look up and say, wait a minute, Dad, you mean to tell me that all that spending that you are doing today, all that money that you act like it is yours when it is not, you mean to tell me that you are borrowing money that I am going to have to be paying back and my friends are going to be paying back. Dad, I think you all better so some serious cutting or do some serious spending reductions or do whatever it takes so that my generation is not strapped hopelessly with this \$5 trillion debt that you are bumping against right now.

I would say, we bring kids in the argument, what would happen, Mr. Speaker, if children were allowed to vote? I think this whole formula would change and I can promise you, we could balance that budget in a hurry because it is not fair what we are leaving our children in the way of debt.